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## **Jeff Ratcliffe testifies on Sen. Stamas' resolution to keep the Gaylord Post Office open**

**LANSING** – A resolution urging Congress and the U.S. Postal Service to keep the mail processing plant in Gaylord was unanimously approved by the Senate Committee on Local, Urban and State Affairs, said Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland.

“Gaylord needs the mail processing facility to remain open,” Stamas said. “If it were to shut down, it could result in approximately 100 people being unemployed or relocated. I hope my resolution can help make the United States Postal Service realize how much the Gaylord community needs the facility.”

Approximately 80 full-time employees would be transferred out of the region to other postal facilities if the Gaylord location closes.

Stamas sponsored Senate Resolution 151, which urges the Postal Service and Congress to keep open the Gaylord location to avoid the negative economic impact and a lower standard of postal service that will result from closure.

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank Senator Stamas for working on this resolution,” said Jeff Ratcliffe, executive director of the Otsego County Economic Alliance, who testified in support of SR 151. “The Gaylord community has been hard hit in recent months. Our community not only depends on the mail processing facility for quick delivery of our mail – but for good-paying jobs as well.”

The Postal Service concluded an Area Mail Processing survey in April to determine whether or not to consolidate the Gaylord mail processing operations to the Traverse City Processing and Distribution Center.

According to the Postal Service, the consolidation is being considered in an effort to reduce the \$8 million deficit of the Greater Michigan Postal District, which includes Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana.

SR 151 will now go before the full Senate for consideration. Working with Stamas, Rep. Kevin Elsenheimer, R-Bellaire, has introduced House Resolution 227, which is identical to SR 151.

District postal offices are expected to receive final word from Washington, D.C. in June or July.

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(More)

Editor's note: A photo of Sen. Stamas and Jeff Ratcliffe testifying before the committee is available on the Senate Majority Photowire at:

<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Stamas/Stamas.htm>